

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of September 16, 2004 is gratefully acknowledged.

The specification and abstract have been amended formally, and claims 1 - 7 have been replaced with new claims 8 - 15 which are believed to be in full accord with the provisions of 35 USC 112 and to patentably distinguish over the references of record.

New claim 8 combines part of previous claim 1 and claim 2 so that the resulting defined connector distinguishes over the Chang and Takamori et al. As to McHugh, new claim 8 defines over McHugh at least in the recitation of the configuration of the support means to butt against an inward engagement face that is provided in a foremost end portion of one of the arms. To anticipate a claim each and ever positively recited feature of a claim must be disclosed in a single reference. McHugh clearly fails this test so that new claim 8 cannot be anticipated by McHugh.

New claim 15 also defines over the references of record as it defines the connector in more detail than new claim 8, which, as noted above, patentably distinguishes over the art of record.

U.S. Pat. Appl. 10/661,549

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 8 - 15 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, RLLC



Felix D. D'Ambrosio

Registration No: 25,721

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Customer Number *23364*

BACON & THOMAS

625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone: (703) 683-0500

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